

Message Text

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FOR PGM/RC, AR

E.O.: 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUNDAY AUGUST 13 TRINIDAD EXPRESS GAVE TWO-THIRDS EDITORIAL PAGE TO ARTICLE BY UNIVERSITY WEST INDIES PROFESSOR SELWYN RYAN ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RECENT STATEMENTS REGARD U.S. "POLITICAL PRISONERS." HEADED "U.S. IS NOT WITHOUT SIN," ARTICLE SAID YOUNG HAS BEEN CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE ALMOST SINCE FIRST DAY HE BECAME U.S. AMBASSADOR TO U.N. AND HAS "IRRITATED AMERICAN SENSIBILITIES" WITH SUCH CLAIMS AS "POSITIVE" CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND "RACIST" TRAITS OF NIXON AND FORD. STORY SAID U.S. OPINION WAS "PARTICULARLY OUTRAGED" WHEN YOUNG MADE COMMENT ABOUT MANY "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN AMERICAN JAILS.

2. WRITER SAID "THE QUESTION AT ISSUE WAS NOT ONLY WHETHER THE ALLEGATION WAS TRUE, BUT WHETHER THE TIMING WAS APPROPRIATE" SINCE "THE REMARK WAS MADE AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TAKING A TYPICALLY AMERICAN MORALISTIC POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT TO DISSENT IN THE SOVIET UNION."

3. ARTICLE SAID THAT WHILE "ANGRY DEMANDS WERE HEARD THAT YOUNG SHOULD BE FIRED OR IMPEACHED...THE BLACK CONGRES-

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SIONAL CAUCUS IN PARTICULAR, AND BLACK OPINION IN GENERAL, WAS EQUALLY ADAMANT THAT YOUNG MUST NOT BE TOUCHED." ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT "MANY BLACKS REMARKED THAT THEY COULD IDENTIFY ONE OR TWO PERSONS WHOM THEY WOULD THEMSELVES CONSIDER POLITICAL PRISONERS," AND THAT "THE DOMINANT OPINION WAS THAT CARTER WOULD LOSE THE BLACK VOTE IF HE FIRED YOUNG AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS 'FIRE-

PROOF'."

4. WRITER QUOTED MR. YOUNG AS SAYING HIS REMARK HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AND SAID THE AMBASSADOR WAS "TRYING TO SAY THAT THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THAT THOSE WHO WERE JAILED BECAUSE THEY WERE STRUGGLING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS WERE, IN HIS VIEW, POLITICAL PRISONERS."

5. WRITER ALSO DESCRIBED YOUNG AS ARGUING "THAT PEOPLE ARE SENT TO PRISON IN AMERICA MUCH MORE BECAUSE THEY ARE POOR THAN BECAUSE THEY ARE BAD.

6. ARTICLE SAID "YOUNG IS QUITE RIGHT TO INSIST THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WITHOUT SIN AND COULD NOT WITH ABANDON CAST THE FIRST STONE." WRITER SAID "ONE APPLAUDS YOUNG FOR HAVING THE COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT IN DEFENCE OF HIS VIEWS AND TO KEEP ALIVE THE TRADITION OF DISSENT WHICH HAS MADE AMERICA WHAT IT IS."

7. "WATERGATE AND ITS AFTERMATH, FOR EXAMPLE," WRITER SAID "COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IN ANY OTHER POLITICAL SYSTEM. NOR COULD THE SORT OF THINGS WHICH ARE BEING OPENLY SAID IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE PRESS ABOUT THE WORK OF THE CIA AND OTHER AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES BE SAID IN MANY OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES."

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8. "ONE MUST ALSO APPLAUD A POLITICAL SYSTEM," WRITER CONCLUDED, "WHICH ALLOWS SUCH THINGS TO BE SAID AT SUCH A LEVEL AND AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME WITHOUT THE COMMENTATOR HAVING TO BE SENT TO AN ARCTIC GULAG OR TO A SANITARIUM FOR THE MENTALLY DERANGED." ASKEY

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